



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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# GROW A SCHOOL GARDEN WITH GRANT FROM STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

BOISE – Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna announced today that grants are now available for Idaho schools that want to build a school garden to help promote nutrition, science and agricultural education.

"These grants offer an innovative way for Idaho schools to teach students about nutritious food choices and to provide opportunities for hands-on learning opportunities in multiple subject areas," said Superintendent Luna. Several schools across Idaho are already using school gardens to supplement student learning.

Schools can apply for grants of up to \$2,000 to build a fruit and vegetable garden. A total of \$30,000 in grants is available for Idaho schools in the upcoming year. Funding for the grant is made possible by a State Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs Team Nutrition grant; therefore, nutrition education must be an important component of the garden plan.

Any Idaho school participating in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National School Breakfast or School Lunch Program is eligible to apply for a grant. The application can be completed by anyone connected with the school, including foodservice employees, teachers, school administrators, parents or members of the local community.

Schools are encouraged to partner with their school foodservice in the gardening plans, when possible, because the USDA allows school cafeterias to serve food grown in a school garden to students.

The State Department of Education will work with the schools that receive grants throughout the year to provide necessary technical assistance and create a best practices guide that schools across the state can use in the future to successfully incorporate gardening programs into the school curriculum.

For more information on the School Garden Grant requirements or for a copy of the School Garden Grant Application, please visit [www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/). Grant applications must be received by **March 4, 2011**.

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